

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, the vast majority of former KLA members who joined the KPC were not professional soldiers—they were farmers, laborers or mechanics, individuals with skills that are desperately needed as Kosova re-builds. Yes, they took up arms in the face of naked aggression from Serb paramilitary and security forces. Faced with similar situations, I doubt many in this Chamber wouldn't do the same to protect their homes, their families and loved ones. The war is now over, and it is essential that we support programs such as this which, in a very real sense, beat swords into plowshares by transitioning these veterans to the cause of community service and nation building.

That cause would be undercut, Mr. Chairman, if we allow this amendment to prevail. Let's not destroy a worthwhile program and jeopardize the cause of peace because of the misdeeds of a few. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Kucinich Amendment.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to oppose the Kucinich Amendment to cut funding for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). The KPC has served as an important force for peace and stability in an unstable region. After the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) demilitarized, the KPC was formed in an effort to employ former KLA members in a capacity which could be beneficial to the region. Since its inception, the KPC has done important work in Kosovo, cleaning disease infested garbage dumps in Pristina, repairing roads and bridges and helping to rebuild over 1,000 homes.

While individual members of the KPC have been accused of carrying illegal weapons, and while I do believe these individuals should be dealt with, the KPC as a whole has played an important role in the quest for peace in Kosovo. On February 4th, in Mitrovica, KPC members intervened along with French and Italian NATO peacekeepers to disperse an angry crowd. The leadership of the KPC has repeatedly spoken out for tolerance and reconciliation amongst the different ethnic groups within the region.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be a grave mistake to deny funding to this important organization at this most tumultuous time in Kosovo's history. I urge my colleagues to vote against the Kucinich amendment.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, it was a bleak picture early last year in the Balkans.

Slobodan Milosevic had begun a new campaign of terror against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Men of all ages were tortured and killed.

Women were raped.

Yet another ethnic population was being "ethnically cleansed."

Refugees poured over the borders of Albania and Macedonia.

When I visited the refugees last May, they relayed experiences that few of us could even imagine are possible in the world today.

One Kosovar boy saw his father's eyes torn out. He told us, "you can't imagine what they have done."

A woman from the Prizren region said that Serb paramilitary forces entered her house, looking for her husband—a teacher in a local school. The forces took all of the family's jewelry and money. She escaped, but her husband and mother were burned alive inside the house. The woman said, "this happened to many people."

These are brutal episodes, but too many of us have become numb to them because in Milosevic's Yugoslavia last decade, we learned of violence like this nearly every day.

But I know that for many of us, and for many of our parents and grandparents, these stories bring back chilling memories of Europe during the Nazi reign of terror.

Last spring, we could have struck our head deep into the sand, and said that Kosovo was merely a European problem, but we didn't.

Together with NATO, we mounted a swift and successful campaign to put an end to this awful bloodshed and mayhem.

Although Kosovo has a long way to go after a generation of ethnic tension, years of neglect and months of war, things are getting better day after day.

Democracy, the rule of law and prosperity do not take root overnight. They must be nurtured. But with care, they will grow.

That's why we must reject this amendment.

It will do nothing more than uproot the careful work we have done so far in the Balkans.

The people of Kosovo are dedicated to democracy, and I know they draw their strength from the commitment we in the United States have made to them.

The army fighting for independence in Kosovo last year voluntarily disarmed.

According to the State Department, this demilitarization was the quickest in modern history.

And the new force—known as the Kosovo Protection Corps—which this amendment seeks to disband, has helped to rebuild homes, fight fires, repair the infrastructure and clean polluted rivers.

Yes, there have been incidents where individuals have engaged in abuses. And these must be dealt with severely.

In any country where chaos has ruled and war has ravaged civic institutions, there is bound to be confusion. Tensions which are ages old will not be diffused overnight.

We should not underestimate the problems.

But the answer is not to walk away from the problems.

The answer is to continue to work for peace.

And that's exactly what we should do in Kosovo.

Vote against this amendment.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I speak today in strong opposition to the Kucinich amendment which seeks to prohibit funds in the FY 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill from being used to fund the Kosova Protection Corps (KPC).

KPC plays a vital role in Kosova, filling the void that was left when the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA) surrendered its weapons.

The KPC was formed by the UN Administration in Kosova (UNMIK) as a civilian organization responsible for disaster response, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance, demining, and infrastructure rebuilding. Security in Kosova is not provided by the KPC, but a separately trained civilian police and international police force serving under the direction of UNMIK. The KPC functions under the political authority of UNMIK and the day-to-day operational direction of KFOR.

The KPC carries out important civilian work projects, such as building and repairing roads and bridges. In another instance, the KPC intervened on February 4 when French and Italian NATO peacekeepers were not able to

disperse an angry crowd and succeeded in restoring order to the situation.

The KPC has the support of the people in Kosova, the U.S. State Department and the United Nations.

Despite the allegations made in support of the Kucinich amendment, UN officials have investigated the allegations leveled against members of the KPC and found no evidence to support them.

International military and civilian leaders in the region have expressed their support and gratitude for the efforts of the KPC.

NATO Secretary-General, Lord Robertson, has praised the Kosova Protection Corps for its work throughout Kosova, which has included repairing roads, bridges, and other reconstruction and relief projects.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Kucinich amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEREUTER

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BEREUTER:

At the end of the bill (preceding the short title), add the following:

TITLE VII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

PROHIBITION ON ASSUMPTION BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF LIABILITY FOR NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS IN NORTH KOREA

SEC. 701. (a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into any agreement, contract, or other arrangement which imposes liability on the United States Government, or otherwise require financial indemnity by the United States Government, for nuclear accidents that may occur at nuclear reactors in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any treaty subject to approval by the Senate pursuant to article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, July 12, 2000, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) will control the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This Member rises out of concern that because of reported executive action that is currently being contemplated by the President, the American taxpayer may soon be required to assume billions of dollars of liability for potential North Korean nuclear accidents.

Under the Korean Energy Development Organization program, KEDO,